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THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Central Hills Retreat open for business

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Central Hills Retreat passed its first big test since a direct strike by a large tornado on January 1 prompted a major repair and renovation program at the Mississippi Baptist campground near West.

Lad/Crusader Day, an annual event at the campground, was held on May 7 as scheduled, and was the first major camping event since the tornado. Camp manager Jim Ray reported that the day was a success with hardly a thought given to the tornado, which struck a few minutes into New Year's Day.

"It was a wonderful day for our boys, their leaders, and the parents who came," Ray said. "We had more adults and leaders attend this year; that makes things run a lot smoother. The weather was outstanding. It felt good to see everything back to normal at the camp. That was a blessing for my camp staff and me."

Don Gann, consultant in the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and coordinator of Lad/Crusader Day, said the registered attendance of 233 boys reflected a rise of about 30 participants over the past several years. The Men's Ministry Department manages the retreat.

"The boys had a ball. With repairs continuing around the camp, we moved the events to the park at the lake, and I think everyone enjoyed being over there around the water," he said.

The boys tested their archery skills, and raced model cars inside a nearby building. They cooked their own camp breakfast of bacon and eggs on top of a coffee can with a heat source underneath the can. They practiced their nail-driving skills on a large piece of lumber, and also hammered spikes into the ground to hone their skills in setting up a campground.

Since the boys were at the lake, planners added a new event this year — a fishing



ALMOST READY — Lad/Crusader Day participants at Central Hills Retreat on May 7 enjoy a camp breakfast of eggs and bacon prepared on top of a coffee can with a heat source placed underneath the can. Event coordinators reported a rise in attendance this year for the first camping event held at the Mississippi Baptist facility since a January 1 tornado caused major damage. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

tournament. The winner took the tournament with a whopping nine-ounce bass. "A cold front had moved in and that really affected the fish biting, but everybody had a good time fishing anyway," Ray said.

Ray predicted an outstanding summer camping season at Central Hills Retreat, with almost all the repairs now completed and many of the camping events already booked solid. "The children's camps are full. The youth camps are almost full. We added another week of youth camp due to demand, and already more young people have signed up than we had in the single week of camp last year."

"Everything is pointing toward a successful season. I thank God for all the prayers and all the hard work by the vol-

unteers to get Central Hills up and running in time to make an eternal difference in the lives of our campers this summer. I can't find the words to express my appreciation for that."

Information on Central Hills Retreat can be found at www.mbc.org. Click on Encampments in the upper left portion of the page. For the summer camping schedule, click on Calendar of Events after clicking on Encampments.

Central Hills Retreat and Mississippi Baptists' other campground, Garaywa Camp and Conference Center in Clinton, are supported by gifts to the work of the Lord through the Mississippi Cooperative Program and the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering.

Warren Assoc.
gathers supplies
for flood victims

VICKSBURG, Ms. (Special) — Warren Association in Vicksburg will be collecting cleaning supplies and personal items to help victims of the Great Flood of 2011. The supplies and items will be accepted from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Monday through Thursday through the month on June at the association office at 3040-B Indiana Avenue in Vicksburg. The supplies will be distributed from the association office beginning June 1. Proof of address by a utility bill or driver's license will be required. For more information, contact the association office at (601) 638-2142. E-mail: wyba@att.net.

Blue Mountain College President Coward announces retirement

BLUE MOUNTAIN, Ms. (Special) — Betty Rogers Coward, the first female president of Blue Mountain College (BMC), has announced her retirement effective June 30, 2012, bringing to close a 45-year career in higher education that also included thirty years at Mississippi College in Clinton, one year at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, and three years at St. Mary's Dominican College in New Orleans.

"It has been a wonderful opportunity to serve Blue Mountain College," said Coward, who noted that she and her husband Tom look forward to spending more time with their two grandchildren. "I continue to enjoy good health and the College is moving forward, sometimes at warp speed, it seems, and we have made great progress toward realizing the VISION for the College."

"I will do whatever I can to support the mission and a new vision for this institution. Meanwhile, this next academic year will have my full involve-



Coward

ment as we continue with the initiatives underway and pave the way for new leadership. I look forward to working with our constituents to make good things happen for Blue Mountain College."

Since Coward's arrival at the historically female institution in 2001, BMC has become fully co-educational and seen its enrollment nearly double. BMC has not only increased enrollment but also seen its donor base expand significantly. The institution has undergone an extensive campus renovation and beautification program, increased faculty and staff, added a graduate program, grown its business degree program, offered

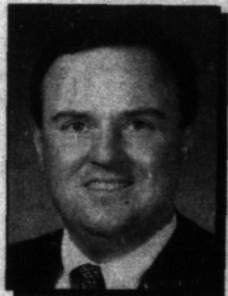
on-line courses, and expanded its intercollegiate athletic program from two to seven sports.

"Dr. Coward has served Blue Mountain College this past decade with distinction," said Carl White, chair of the BMC board of trustees and senior pastor of Highland Church in Meridian. "She has transformed every aspect of Blue Mountain College. It has been an honor to serve with her as a member of the board of trustees. I am looking forward to working with her through the end of the next school year and wish for her every happiness in the future."

"We are at a wonderful juncture at the College," Coward said. "The timing could not be better for new and exciting leadership. So many initiatives are already underway and others are planned for the near future."

A presidential search committee has been established. Information regarding the application process will be announced later and will be available on the college web site: www.bmc.edu.

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The fascination with end times

Harold Egbert Camping got it wrong, again. The Rapture didn't occur on May 21, as he so boldly predicted. The obscure radio and Internet evangelist and dedicated numerologist from Oakland, Ca., did manage to frighten a lot of mixed-up folks, however, with his latest Judgment-Day-is-upon-us campaign, so much so that some people, according to The Washington Post, spent their life savings helping promote Camping's prediction and at least one person turned down a medical school admission so she could prepare for Christ's Second Coming.

Alas, it didn't happen. "I hope that Rev. Harold Camping is right that Jesus and Judgment Day are coming on May 21 — Maranatha — even now, come Lord Jesus!" Steve Lemke, provost of New Orleans Seminary, told Baptist Press a few days before the prediction was to pass. Referencing both 1 Corinthians 16:22 and Revelation 22:20, Lemke said, "However, he is probably wrong, as he has been wrong before. Since Scripture tells us that no one knows the day and hour of Christ's return (Matthew 24:36 and Mark 13:32), Camping's prediction makes May 21 one of the least likely days for the return of Christ."

This wasn't the first Rapture flop for Camping, age 89. He also calculated that the world as we know it would end in September 1994. Apparently, it didn't.

The web site for Family Radio, the name of Camping's ministry, states that he received a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley in 1942 and went into the construction business. He and his family were lifelong members of the Christian Reformed Church until the year 1988. He eventually sold his business and became a full-time volunteer employee of Family



• William Miller (1782-1849), an American Baptist preacher, utilized Old Testament prophecies to predict the Rapture would occur during October 1844. The failure of Jesus to appear as Miller had predicted became known as the Great Disappointment, and many believers fell away. Undaunted, Miller followed up with another Rapture prediction that also turned out not to be true.

• Many of us are old enough to remember the uproar caused by former NASA engineer Edgar Whisenant (1932-2001), who wrote 88 Reasons Why the Rapture Will Be in 1988. So confident was Whisenant that he was widely quoted as saying, "Only if the Bible is in error am I wrong." (He was, and the Bible isn't.) When his prediction did not compel Jesus to return that year, Whisenant issued other pronouncements that He would return in 1989, 1993, and 1994.

David Allen, dean of Southwestern Seminary's school of theology, told Baptist Press that when faced with Jesus' words and Camping's latest contradictory claims, he'll trust Jesus.

"Jesus said no one knows the day or the hour of His return. I suspect Jesus knows more about this than anyone from Family Radio. I find it is always better to trust the Bible on these things than people who do and say things directly contradictory to the Bible. That sounds like solid advice for all of us."

Radio, where he still serves as president and general manager.

The web site claims Camping's program is broadcast on more than 140 stations owned by the company in the U.S., but the web site lists only Internet transmissions. There was no way to determine whether the program is broadcast in Mississippi.

Camping is simply one of the many failed Rapture prognosticators since Jesus walked on earth. It is a fascinating topic, to be sure, but one that has led many people astray. Here are two examples among hundreds, if not thousands:

GUEST OPINION:

Reviving apologetics

By Mike Licona
Alpharetta, Ga.



with Christ. Some of these students will become church planters, missionaries, pastors, youth pastors, and seminary professors.

However, if we neglect familiarizing our college students with apologetics now, will we find far fewer members in SBC churches 20 years from now? From where will our next generation of church leaders come?

The North American Mission Board has created free apologetics resources. At 4truth.net, viewers have access to nearly 200 articles and can listen to more than a dozen interviews with leading scholars and scientists. Most of the articles are available in five languages. We recently posted a five-part video series with discussion questions for use by groups and individuals on the topic of the historical evidence for Jesus' resurrection.

NAMB also has a certification program in apologetics. Church planters, pastors, and campus ministry leaders can benefit from nearly a year's supply of free PowerPoint presentations on apologetics topics we have created for them. Contact your state director of evangelism for information on how to obtain these.

Licona is the apologetics coordinator at the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in Alpharetta, Ga.

NAMB, IMB prepare to combine resources



SHARING STRATEGIES — Leaders from Southern Baptist churches, associations, seminaries, state conventions, and the North American Mission Board trade ideas with International Mission Board (IMB) strategists about engaging unreached people groups in U.S. cities during a May 9-10 conference at the IMB's International Learning Center in Rockville, Va. (BP photo)

ROCKVILLE, Va. (BP) — When Tom Billings looks at Houston today, he sees a very different city than the Houston of a generation ago.

It's bigger, to be sure. The Texas urban giant counts more than six million people within its metropolitan area, now the fifth-largest metro region in the United States and a nexus of many cultures and languages.

"In 1980, Houston was a biracial southern city: black and white, mostly white," says Billings, executive director of Union Association, which serves some 600 Southern Baptist churches in greater Houston.

Today, it is a major immigration portal and one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse urban centers in North America. One in four Houston residents was born overseas. Billings and his ministry team have identified some 350 different ethnolinguistic people groups. More than 150 languages are spoken by the families of students in the public schools.

"I remind [churches] that we are responsible for reaching all of the people in the city, not just the folks that look like us," Billings says. "It's hard for us to cross over those barriers and boundaries in order to reach out, but we've got a responsibility for other people. That's the Great Commission."

To reach the rainbow mosaic of peoples in today's Houston, however, Billings says he had to learn to think like a missionary — and a global mission strategist. He's far from the only one.

Billings joined 12 other leaders from Southern Baptist churches, associations, seminaries, state conventions, and the North American Mission Board (NAMB) on May 9-10 to trade ideas with eight International Mission Board (IMB) strategists at the IMB's International Learning Center in Rockville, Va.

The two-day roundtable, Engaging Unreached People Groups in U.S. Urban Centers, focused on the opportunities and challenges of a rapidly shifting cultural landscape.

"We need to get beyond artificial boundaries and geopolitical borders, even in North America," said Ken Winter, IMB vice president for church and partner services, who organized the dialogue. "It's a new day in partnership and collaboration between church planters, NAMB, and IMB in engaging unreached peoples in North America with shared resources, training, research and strategy."

The session came two weeks after NAMB President Kevin Ezell met with IMB President Tom Elliff to brainstorm new ways to partner in mobilizing Southern Baptists to evangelize the lost, make disciples, and plant new congregations. While the two mission boards have different ministry assignments and responsibilities, "we're making a determined effort to forge a new and stronger relationship," Elliff said after that meeting.

The urban face of North America is changing radically as the world rushes toward the United States and Canada. Refugees, immigrants, international students, and high-powered executives with global corporations come from many places and for many different reasons — but they continue to come, settling primarily in cities, and they need to know about the love of Jesus.

According to current mission research, 584 unengaged, unreached people groups can be found in North America. In other words, these groups haven't heard the Christian Gospel presented in ways they can understand it and respond to it, and no evangelical group has a viable plan to reach them. Many of them live in urban, or urbanizing, areas.

The New York City metro area, where NAMB missionary Steve Allen works as a church catalyst for the Metropolitan New York Association, is home to about 22 million people. They speak as many as 800 languages. Two-thirds of them are first-generation immigrants or their children.

"We're just starting to put a face on a lot of these people groups," Allen said during the

roundtable session, "but there's never been a better time to engage New York and North American cities, because that's where God is at work."

Another example is Gwinnett County in Georgia, once primarily rural and now a part of sprawling urban/suburban greater Atlanta. Gwinnett's population nearly doubled to more than 800,000 between 2000 and 2010. The county plays host to some 1,400 technology companies, many of them global corporations with substantial numbers of international employees.

"Within a 20-minute drive of our church, we've got 26 mosques and Islamic centers," said Troy Bush, minister of evangelism and missions at Cross Pointe Church in Duluth, a suburban community in Gwinnett.

Only 32% of the children in his daughter's school system are Anglo, he said. The largest Hindu temple in the United States sits in Lilburn, a 15-minute drive away.

"Atlanta's global footprint is enormous," Bush said. "We're talking about the heart of the Bible Belt and the radical changes that have taken place right here. We literally have peoples from all over the world. They're bringing in a plurality of religious views, everything from Buddhism to Hinduism to Islam and other religious beliefs."

"The challenge for our churches is to recognize this and then develop strategies to

engage them with the Gospel, start churches and make disciples among them."

It's an overwhelming task even for a passionate advocate like Bush, a former IMB missionary to the Russian megacity of Moscow. He also teaches urban ministry at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. "One of the challenges is simply identifying [the different people groups] and understanding who they are," Bush said.

The roundtable participants discussed the massive research task, as well as available and needed tools and resources, obstacles to effective outreach inside and outside churches, how to build networks and partnerships, and ways IMB missionaries and strategists can "come alongside" in appropriate ways to assist.

Some of the ideas and possible initiatives discussed:

- Share and partner in research on unreached peoples in urban centers.
- Develop a coordinated people-group information database.
- Provide practical, accessible training and resources to individuals: churches, associations, and teams struggling with the often-bewildering challenges of rapidly changing urban areas.
- Connect IMB workers assigned to reach people groups overseas with churches and ministry leaders reaching out to the same peoples in North America — and vice versa.

Looking back

10 years ago

First Church, Jackson, presents a record Annie Armstrong Easter Offering check for \$103,000 to Bob Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board, during the May 20 NAMB missionary commissioning service at the church.

20 years ago

Members of Providence Church, Marietta, Ga., bring their Mississippi work to a close with the organization of an African-American Southern Baptist Church in Meridian. The church was organized Sunday, May 5 after revival services were held on Saturday and Sunday.

30 years ago

Nineteen missionaries appointed by the Foreign Mission Board are appointed in May, bringing the total number of active foreign missionaries to 1,519.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

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NO. 21



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BIBLIOPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
© 2005

VMY LGYH OHK WYL-
WHYLK OPZ OLHYA AV
ZLLR AOL SHD VM AOL
SVYK, HUK AV KV PA,
HUK AV ALHJO PU
PZYHLS ZAHABALZ
HUK QBKNTLUAZ.
LGYH ZLCLU: ALU

Clue: G = Z

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Joshua One: Nine

MS POSITIONS

FLOWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL OR PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER to work with both the children's division and the Youth division as a coordinator not necessarily a teacher. Please send resumes to Flowood Baptist Church, 1649 Old Fannin Road, Flowood, MS 39232. For further information you may call 601-992-6464.

NEW SIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MUSIC DIRECTOR. Send resumes to: Charlotte Newell, 1017 Common Street, Wesson, MS 39191 or email to wanchar2353@att.net.

ENTERPRISE BAPTIST CHURCH IN ENTERPRISE, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME MINISTER OF STUDENTS. Please send resumes to: enterprisebaptist@att.net OR Enterprise Baptist Church, C/O Minister of Students Search P.O. Box 186 Enterprise, MS 39330.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MAGEE, MS IS SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR THE FULL-TIME POSITION OF CHILDHOOD EDUCATION MINISTER (birth to 6th grade). Resumes may be mailed to FBC Magee, P.O. Box 266, Magee, MS 39111 or emailed to khal@fbcmagee.com.

INVERNESS FBC LOOKING FOR P/T MUSIC DIRECTOR. For details call 662-265-5367 or 662-207-0066.

YOU LOOK LIKE SOMEBODY

It was Saturday morning and I had to run to the grocery store to pick up a couple of things. It was early enough that the serious grocery shoppers had not arrived and the only people there were a few of us who were grabbing some things and trying to get out. When I found the items I needed, I went to the checkout counter and walked up behind a lady who was checking out and about to pay for her groceries. Realizing that somebody had walked up behind her in that aisle, she made a one-second glance at me, spoke, looked back, and then quickly looked back again. She smiled, spoke again, and I spoke to her. The first look was with a sense that, "Somebody is here beside me so I will speak and turn away." The second look was a, "Hi Neighbor, I did not expect to see you here at the grocery store this morning," kind of look.

At that point, she was a little bit embarrassed and turned to give me a third look and explain why she was so expressive and outgoing at the second look. She said, "I thought you were somebody!" She turned back to the cashier. Realizing that did not sound altogether right, she looked at me for the fourth time and said, "I mean I thought that you were somebody that I knew." All the while, I was standing there thinking, "I am not sure that I know you, but I am somebody." I was thinking I know I am not the governor, a celebrity, or some famous entertainer, but as awkward as it was for her it was even more so for me. I wanted to explain to her, "Ma'am, I am not a nobody, but I am somebody." The truth is that everybody is somebody and even someone who is a nobody is somebody.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

She must have heard my thoughts because for a final time she turned and said, "Who are you anyway?" I wanted to say just somebody buying groceries early on a Saturday morning, but I didn't. I introduced myself and she said, "Oh, I know who you are." That led to a conversation about mutual friends that we had. The whole experience ended in a positive conclusion. She got her things, I paid for mine, and I headed out into the parking lot mulling over her comment, "You look like somebody." It reminded me that everyone is somebody created by God. What a simple and yet profound truth that is to recognize in each other the value, worth, significance, and amazing creativity of God that everybody is somebody special. We are not just biological accidents.

We are creations of God and that makes us somebody. Whoever we are and whatever package God put together that formed us, we are all somebody and each of us has some deficiencies. It is strange how God gives us gifts and blesses us with certain abilities and capabilities. Most of us tend to focus on our deficiencies. We feel like we are nobody because we do not have some of the things that we see missing. For example, body image gets so much attention in our world. Regardless of how we are shaped, we realize we are not

shaped liked some other people. If we are short, we probably wish that we had more height. If we are really tall, we may wish that we were not so tall for that creates a problem.

Sometimes if you have a brilliant mind and grow up living only in the world of academics you wish that you had a little ability that is more athletic, while others who may have great athletic skills wish they were a little more on the brainy side. Regardless of who you are there will be someone else who is brighter, better looking, faster, stronger, has a more magnificent personality, or is more articulate. That does not make you a nobody because you are somebody created by God.

We are not only created by God, but we are created by God for a purpose. Regardless of who we are and what we are capable of or incapable of, God can use us. He will if we will let Him. We so often underestimate the power of God to take who we are and bless other folks.

I was visiting a school filled with precious young adults, all of whom had challenges or deficiencies. As I visited with them, one of the young men said that he wanted to sing a song, I said, "Absolutely, come on up here." He stood up, came over by me, and started singing. Now if it was an actual song, it was not one that I had ever heard the tune or the words. As he sang, he seemed to be making up the words in repetitive fashion. He sang, "Jesus I love you. Jesus, you are my Lord." He sang for several minutes as the entire group watched and listened attentively. I was engrossed with the words he said and the way he sang them. He finally concluded and everyone in the

room applauded his efforts and beautiful presentation. I joined with all of them because his song was a presentation more to God than it was to me and my heart overflowed.

I left thinking what a magnificent moment it was and what a blessing from God to be there and to hear him sing. I suppose some people might have looked at him and thought that he would never be a bank president or a college professor. He would never work in a space program or be a brilliant architect or engineer but, my, how this precious young man was able to touch my life and the lives of the people in that room.

You are somebody created by God. Let God use you for His purposes and live out His plan day by day in your life. Every one of us is shaped by God to be a blessing to others. Probably, if we would stop looking at our insufficiencies and see His sufficiency in our lives, it would make a world of difference day after day. Remember the crowd of over 5,000 men that was following Jesus? They were weary and hungry and there was no way to feed them. Well, there did not appear to be any way but a lad was found in the midst of the crowd who had five loaves and two little fish. Jesus said, "Bring them to me."

The disciples had pointed out to the Lord what they had and asked, "But what are these among so many?" Bring it to Jesus! They did and He blessed the little lunch, handed the morsels to His disciples, and told them to feed the crowd. They fed them and fed them. Then Jesus said, "Go pick up the scraps." Each one of the disciples brought back a basketful of leftovers.

Recognize the somebody around you and do not discount the little fellow with not much to give. He may have a song, a snack, or a smile. She may have an incredible sweet spirit. She is a somebody and so is he. By the way, you look like somebody to me.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

- Coldwater Church, Philadelphia:** Homecoming, June 12, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck dinner; Herschel Kilpatrick, speaker; Buck Stovall, music.
- Shiloh Church, Big Creek:** Homecoming, June 5; special music, 10 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Johnny Hearn, pastor.
- First Church, State Line:** Homecoming, June 5; concert with Carolyn Norris, 10 a.m., followed by worship and dinner on the grounds; Ken Gibson, speaker. A love offering will be received.
- Roundaway Church, Doddsville:** Homecoming, May 29; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by meal; Greg Lassett, speaker; Bob Hill, pastor.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 26, 2011

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



MISSIONS CAMP FOR GIRLS

Camp Garaywa event for girls who have completed grades 3-6

Space is still available for:	June 6-10	June 20-24	July 11-15
	June 13-17	July 4-8	July 18-22

Cost is \$155 per camper
Register online at www.garaywa.org
or call 601-924-7034

GROWING CHURCHES

Sponsored by MS Baptist Convention & North MS Baptist Associations

Growing Churches Conference

Friday & Saturday, July 29 & 30, 2011

Harrisburg Baptist Church
4675 Cliff Gookin Blvd.
Tupelo, MS 38801

For the training of the saints in the work of the ministry, to build up the body of Christ.

For more information, call Lee County Baptist Association (662) 268-1700.

State Literacy Missions Conference

July 14-16, 2011

Crossgates Baptist Church, Brandon

With Special Guest: Kendale Moore

For more information see

www.mbc.org/mission_strategy/wmu/literacy

or call 601-292-3317

Basic Workshops in:

- Adult Reading & Writing
- English as a Second Language
- Bible Storytelling

Seminars on:

- Updates
- Cultures
- Religions



Annual Missions Celebration

SPONSORED BY MISSISSIPPI WMU

Crossgates Baptist Church, Brandon
Friday and Saturday, August 12-13

» Celebration

The WMU Annual Meeting will be held during the Friday evening worship celebration held at Crossgates Baptist Church. This time will include missionary testimonies, creative theme interpretations, praise & worship music and more.

» Training

Conferences for associational WMU leaders, church missions leaders and women's ministry leaders will be offered on both Friday evening and Saturday morning. General missions/ministry conferences will be offered for all participants.

» Learn More

For more information about this event, contact Mississippi WMU at 800-748-1651, or go online to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Web site (www.mbc.org) for a schedule and conference list. Search under the event title or calendar date.



Professional Certification for Ministry Assistants and BAPTIST Ministry Office Skillsshops

August 16-18, 2011

GARAYWA CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CLINTON, MISS.

Certification

The certification course is divided into six three-hour sections:

- God's Call
- Leadership
- Administration
- My Character
- Communication
- Ministry

Skillshops

Basic English and Church Financial Management skillshops offer in-depth experiential treatment of specific areas of office administration and ministry.

Contact Kay McDonnell at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305,
or 601-292-3305 or kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

Save the dates!

**Baptist Nursing
Fellowship Retreat**
for all BNF members,
nurses or medical
personnel interested
in medical missions
involvement

Sept. 30
through
Oct. 1
(at Garaywa)

Fall Bible Drill Retreat

October 7-8, 2011
Garaywa • Clinton, Mississippi

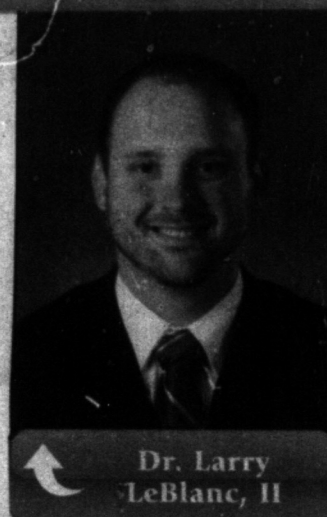
Includes program tracks for

- Children Grades 4-6
- Children's Bible Drill teachers
- Students Grades 7-12
- Student Bible Drill teachers
- Student Speakers
Tournament (Grades 10-12)

Questions: dbrashler@mbcb.org

"Creating a Culture of Growth"

PASTORS' WORKSHOP



Dr. Larry
LeBlanc, II

**August 29,
2011**

9 a.m.
to noon

Baptist Building Skyroom

Led by
Larry LeBlanc, II
Pastor, FBC Summit
&
Israel Cox, Pastor
Crosspoint Church,
Gulfport

Larry LeBlanc believes in discipleship through leaders equipped according to their gifts, public worship that is Christ exalting, small groups that focus on relationship building, evangelism carried out in missions and community ministry, and church government carried out effectively.



Rev. Israel Cox

Israel Cox feels called to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus by sharing the timeless truths of the Bible in fresh, creative and practical ways. His greatest desire is to lead Crosspoint Church to be a lighthouse to the coast, and a safe place to bring unchurched friends and neighbors.

For more information contact Alan Woodward
601.292.3308, or awoodward@mbcb.org

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6:30 p.m. First Baptist Church • 106 East Lumpkin Street

June 10 **Purvis, Miss.** (601) 794-8351
6:30 p.m. First Baptist Church • 77 Shelby Spaight Drive

June 11 **Hattiesburg, Miss.** (601) 318-6051
3:00 p.m. FestivalSouth
William Carey University • 498 Tuscan Avenue

June 12 **Gulfport, Miss.** (228) 832-1966
9:00 a.m. Bel-Aire Baptist Church • 15080 Dedmon Road

June 12 **Gulfport, Miss.** (228) 863-5096
10:30 a.m. Grace Memorial Baptist Church • 2301 23rd Avenue

June 13 **Jackson, Miss.** (601) 949-1900
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iPRAY

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17
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Jeremiah 33:3

Pray this day for...

'And He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.' Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.'

Matthew 4:19-20

May 27 - June 9, 2011

Pray for a team of 12 from **Longview Heights BC**, Olive Branch, as they travel to minister in Hungary, May 29-June 6.

Pray for a team of four from **Mt Zion BC**, Florence, as they travel to Kenya to minister through a pastors' conference, May 30-June 10.

Pray for a team of 14 from **North Winona BC** as they travel to Greece to minister through medical needs and evangelism, May 31-June 9.

Pray for the **Robby Rowland family** from Springdale, Ripley, as they spend their sixth summer ministering to the people of Ukraine, May 15-July 31.

Pray for a team of 11 from **The Grove Church**, Hattiesburg, as they travel to Brazil to minister through evangelism, June 2-11.

Pray for a team of 10 from **Pleasant Hill BC**, Columbus, as they travel to the Dominican Republic to minister through VBS & medical missions, June 3-10.

Pray for a team of 12 from **Petal-Harvey BC**, Petal, as they travel to Costa Rica to minister through recreation, June 4-11.

Pray for eight students ministering in East Asia, May 24-July 8.

Pray for two students ministering in Southeast Asia, May 24-July 23.

Pray for a team of 11 from **FBC, Runnelstown**, Petal, traveling to Honduras to minister through medical and dental missions and evangelism, June 7-14.

Pray for a team of 13 from **Broadmoor BC**, Madison, traveling to Ukraine to minister through church planting and evangelism, June 9-18.

Pray for a team of 19 from **FBC, Tupelo**, traveling to Maine to minister through construction and community missions, June 10-17.

Online Training

for WMU Missions
& Women's Ministry Leaders

Mississippi WMU is now offering online training for missions leaders.

The following seven conferences are now available:

- How to Involve Churches in Associational Missions
- How to Involve Your Church in Missions
- How to Involve Adults in Missions
- How to Involve Women in Women's Ministry
- How to Involve Students in Missions
- How to Involve Children in Missions
- How to Involve Preschoolers in Missions

These online conferences are designed to train missions leaders in the local association and church to facilitate missions education and ministries as needed in their ministry environment.

To participate you must register online at: www.mbc.org/mission_strategy/wmu/education/online_training.aspx. Online registration is now open.

For more information about online training please contact Tammy Anderson in the Mississippi WMU office at 800-748-1651, ext. 323, or tanderson@mbcb.org.

Mid-Delta FamilyFEST

July 20-24, 2011

(Cleveland, Greenwood, Indianola area)

FamilyFEST is a hands-on missions project designed to help families connect with one another while doing missions/ministry together. Any missions volunteers—six years and older—are encouraged to participate.

The cost is \$25 per individual or a maximum of \$50 per family (immediate family—parents and their children). The cost includes: registration fee, t-shirt, event insurance, some supplies, some meals. Additional cost will include: some project supplies, meals, and housing. We are working on affordable housing options.

To receive a registration packet for this event, contact Tammy Anderson in the Mississippi WMU office (800-748-1651, ext. 323, or tanderson@mbcb.org).

FamilyFEST is co-sponsored by the Mid-Delta Baptist Association, Men's Ministry (MBCB) and Mississippi WMU (MBCB).



HOUSE TOPS

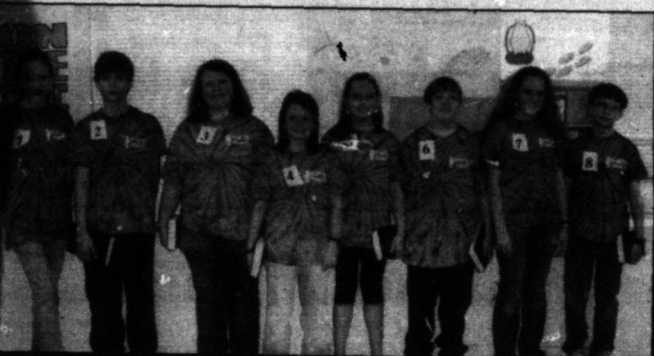
BIBLE DRILLS



1. Philadelphia Church, Caseville



2. First Church, Vancleave



3. First Church, Philadelphia

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

1. Terry's Creek Church, Magnolia: June 6 - 10, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.
2. First Church, Glendale, Hattiesburg: June 5 - 10, 5:30 - 8 p.m.; ages 3 years - 6th grade. For more information, call (601) 544-0414.
3. First Church, Richton, held a Tacky Tourist Fashion Show May 15, with leaders and several students strolling the red carpet to promote VBS. Shown are the participants.



3. First Church, Richton



1. Philadelphia Church, Caseville, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown are Regan Scott, Shelby Richardson, Megan Givens, Jesse Freeman, Mark Richardson, Morgan Scott, Georgianna Pepper, Jamie Richardson, leader.

2. First Church, Vancleave, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown are the participants.

3. First Church, Philadelphia, recognizes its children's Bible drillers. From left: Callie Prince, Matthew Smith, Madison Alford, Zoie Henson, Emma Grace Carlyle, Andrew Carlyle, Courtney Smith, and Casey Hight.

4. Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, recognizes its youth Bible drillers. From left: Colton Brannan, Sheldon Herrington, Hunter Brannan, and Jordan Pitts.

5. Calvary Church, Starkville, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown are the participants.

6. Tuckers Crossing Church, Laurel, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown are the participants.

7. Freeny Church, Carthage, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown are Victoria Sprayberry, Alana Patterson, and Savanna Alford.

4. Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale



5. Calvary Church, Starkville



6. Tuckers Crossing Church, Laurel



7. Freeny Church, Carthage

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GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

FEBRUARY 2011

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MARCH 2011

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To apply for the current Houseparent openings, please contact, Celeste Cade at 601-922-2242 ext. 309 or go to www.baptistchildrensvillage.com to download an application and complete job description.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Invest in Others

Acts 9:26-27; 11:19-26; 15:36-41

By Bobby McKay

The past few weeks we have dealt with many topics related to spiritual leadership. We have studied subjects such as courage, influence, God's purposes, and our private walk with the Lord. We conclude our time together with a crucial component of leadership that is desperately needed in today's churches: investing in others. It has been said that no millionaire became wealthy by investing in their own savings account. When we devote our lives and gifts in making disciples for Christ we are truly leading like Jesus. When He chose disciples during His earthly ministry, Jesus wasn't just seeking friendship. He was searching for individuals He could teach, trust, and ultimately, be left with the task of carrying out the great commission. Some of the most frustrating times in the ministry of Jesus were with those He was

closest. They shared incredible highs and terrible lows, but they did so together.

Christ-like leaders are aware that the only way to assure continuation of the Gospel is to be willing to take the time and energy to invest in others. This is not easy and is often frustrating, but we must be proactive in mentoring or discipling one on one. The truest test of leadership may be our ability to impact and change the life of not thousands, but rather one at a time. I know on a personal level that people like my parents, my wife Amy, Steve Stone, Frank Pollard, Matt Buckles, Judy Corder, and many others have helped me in my journey. Through their encouragement, challenges, and prayers I am an incredibly blessed man. There are three brief tips on investing in others I would submit for your consideration this week.



McKay

Invest On Purpose
Investing in others doesn't just happen. Investments should be intentional. The relationships we build with other people cause us to stretch ourselves and often times may appear risky. Read Acts 9:26-27. We forget that even the great Saul (later Apostle Paul) needed a friend. Barnabas stepped up and was Saul's advocate to the disciples. He shared with them the Damascus road account. Barnabas put his own name and neck on the line for a new believer. Are we doing the same for new Christians in our church family? Churches that do not intentionally reach out and invest in their community run the risk of losing their usefulness in their church field. Is it risky? You bet. Is it worth it? No doubt!

Involve Other People
I hope by now you have learned the valuable leadership lesson of assistance. No matter if it is within the family, a business, or church, we all need the help of others to assure success.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Be Forgiving

Philemon 1-25

By Cyndi Grace

While writing this final lesson of the quarter, my town is in recovery mode from the F-3 tornado that swept through. While destruction is widespread not one life was lost and folks are calling it a miracle. Folks are also saying, "I might have lost my house, but I still have my family and friends!" Why does it often take a tragedy to put our priorities in order? On the other hand, how many times do we see regret at a funeral because things weren't said...forgiveness wasn't given or we, too late, realize that grudges were just not worth it?

Our lesson title "Be Forgiving" goes a bit further than simply saying, "forgive." The title indicates a lifestyle that Christians should adopt. It is an on-going process...as you

go—be forgiving. Easier said than done, huh? We try to justify holding a grudge by pointing out that what they did to us was worse than anything ever done to them. We cry, "I have a 'right' not to forgive." But what does that right accomplish? I have been on the opposite side of this. I have asked for forgiveness, and for a restored relationship, yet sadly, was refused and the grudge held against me, grew into bitterness that affected all those around.

Paul personally understood the joy of forgiveness! The very people he at one time set out to kill had brought him into Christian fellowship after Barnabas encouraged them to give him a second chance. (Acts 9:27) Maybe that was why this special letter was sent to Philemon. Perhaps he saw a bit of himself in this situation. Paul



Grace

had led this young, run-away slave Onesimus to the Lord and now Onesimus needed his own "Barnabas" to speak for him. Paul had disciplined him and he had become like a son, but there was something left undone. So Paul insisted he go back to Philemon, his master, and meet with him face to face.

We don't know exactly what Onesimus had done but we do know he had not been a believer. He had lost his Master's trust and had incurred his anger so he felt his only option was to run. All of us, one time or another, have hurt someone else. Maybe we didn't mean to—maybe we did—but instead of seeking to restore the relationship, we have run. We run by avoidance or justification of our actions but the results are the same...a hurt and broken relationship.

Sometime we are the one who has been hurt. We justify this position for we are "vic-

There is no way in the world that I could physically or mentally do everything needed at the church I serve by myself. I am dependent on the gifts and talents of many others in seeing the mission of the church carried out. The bible never calls us to be Lone Rangers for Jesus. Nor does God call any minister to be a C.E.O. or dictator to the bride of Christ. In Acts 11:19-26 we read about the early church sending Barnabas to Antioch to verify some good reports of many people being saved. Why Barnabas? Because of him, Saul was accepted by the other disciples. Barnabas was trustworthy and known for his sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and His workings. The willingness of the disciples to allow other people to share the Gospel enabled the salvation of many souls and a region to turn to God in repentance.

Insight Of Possibilities
The last glimpse of Barnabas in this week's study is one of the most talked about occurrences in the early church. Acts 15:36-41 records a disagreement between

Paul and Barnabas. It boiled down to the fact that Paul refused to take John Mark with him on a mission trip because he deserted him in the past. Barnabas, being the constant cheerleader, tried to assure Paul that John Mark had matured and would be an asset to him. At this point, I would like to add that it is said that Paul soon forgot he needed a second chance and now refused to give this same grace to John Mark. Ultimately, Paul won the argument but God got the glory. Both Paul and John Mark would do great things for God's kingdom. John Mark is the author of the gospel of Mark while Paul would pen two-thirds of the New Testament and would become the second greatest figure in first century Christianity behind Jesus. It is good to note that these two reconciled later in life. Barnabas saw the possibility of greatness in the lives of both of these men. Are we willing to take the risk, ask for help, and look for the good in others? If so, you are real leaders!

McKay is pastor of Harpersville Church, Harpersville.

He did this for Onesimus, yes, but more so for the health and fellowship of the church in Colossae. Make no mistake, when discontent and un-forgiveness is in a church, it is a foothold for Satan.

We have been each of these people at one time or another and Paul through this letter encourages each of us to seek forgiveness, offer forgiveness, or encourage forgiveness. This should be the lifestyle of every born again believer. Had Christ not forgiven us, where would we be? Christ is the great relationship restorer. Let the picture of the cross come to your mind. He who endured more hurt than we can imagine, looked down at the very people who were killing His earthly body, and said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34 (NIV) Be forgiving and see what God will do in your life!

Grace is a conference speaker and Bible teacher and is a member of First Church, Clinton.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. First Church, Batesville



2. Magnolia Church, Laurel

1. First Church, Batesville, held a baby dedication on May 8. Shown are the babies and their parents.
2. Gail James right, WMU director at Magnolia Church, Laurel, is shown with Braxton Rayborn, who brought a Hershey syrup bank filled with \$134.87 in coins for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The youth of Magnolia also held a men's bake-off, giving all the proceeds to Annie Armstrong.
3. Harrisville Church, Harrisville, will host Andrew Ishee, former pianist for the Kingsmen and Palmetto State Quartet May 29, 5:30 p.m. Love offering will be received.
4. Russell Church, Meridian, is hosting Dennis Swanburg June 17, 7 p.m. Tickets, \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. For tickets, call (601) 482-3577 or 604-6200.



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